

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 14-16 and 20-25 are pending, with claims 20-25 having been withdrawn. By this Amendment, claim 14 is being amended to improve its form. No new matter is involved.

At the top of page 2 of the Office Action, claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,309,264 of Lien et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed, particularly in view of claim 14 as amended herein.

In response to these rejections, Applicant is amending independent claim 14 to recite that "the orientation controllers control the orientation of the liquid crystal in reverse about the orientation controllers". The amendment is supported by lines 18-20 on page 12 of the present Specification as filed; support for the amendment is also found in paragraph 20 of Japanese Patent Application No. H09-268973, priority to which was perfected with the submission of its certified translation with Applicant's October 5, 2006 Response.

Amended claim 14 requires that the orientation controllers of the pixel electrodes both have "portions extending along the direction in which said one or more slits extend" and "control the orientation of the liquid crystal in reverse about the orientation controllers".

In the embodiment of the present invention disclosed in Figs. 6 and 7, the orientation control windows 32a, 32b, and 32c are formed in the common electrode 31 that is formed on the opposing substrate 30. Each orientation control window 32a, 32b, and 32c corresponds to each pixel electrode region 19a, 19b, and 19c. These pixel electrode regions are formed by slits 19d and 19e in pixel electrode 19. As depicted in Fig. 6, the orientation control windows 32a, 32b, and 32c have portions that extend in the same direction as slits 19d and 19e. In each pixel

electrode region 19a, 19b, and 19c the liquid crystal molecules are oriented in the reverse directions about each orientation control window when an electric field is applied, as depicted by the arrows in Fig. 6 and the tilt of the liquid crystal molecules 41 in Fig. 7. This configuration increases the area where the orientation is uniform, while decreasing the area of an abnormal orientation at the edge sections of the pixel electrode. Thus, the viewing angle characteristic, transmittance, and response time can be improved. (See, Specification, p. 11, line 27 - p. 12, line 24; Figs. 6 and 7)

In rejecting claim 14 as being anticipated by Lien, the Office Action at the top of page 3 states that parts of element 92 separated by openings 94a and 94b, or alternatively, openings 94a and 94b, disclose orientation controllers as required by amended claim 14. The Office Action goes on to state that Fig. 5, as depicted at the top of page 4 of the Office Action, discloses orientation controllers, which have portions extending in the direction in which the one or more slits 91 extend.

However, Lien discloses that slit 91 is cut out of bottom electrode 90 in the shape of a rectangle, with its major direction extending along the width of the pixel. The top electrode 92 has two "double-Y" cutouts 94a and 94b; cutout 94a is arranged to overlie that portion of electrode 90 above rectangular cutout 91, and cutout 94b is arranged to overlie that portion of electrode 90 below rectangular cutout 91. The cutouts 94a and 94b have center portions, as indicated by the width X in Fig. 5, which are shown to extend toward slit 91 in what appears to be a perpendicular direction. These cutouts also have end portions, as indicated by width Y, which are shown to branch out from the center portions and extend toward slit 91 at angles. (See, Lien, col. 5, lines 34-44; Fig. 5).

Inasmuch as openings 94a and 94b, cut out of top electrode 92, are shown to have portions that extend toward slit 91 at some angle, they cannot be said to extend in the direction in which slit 91 extends.

Further still, Lien discloses that the openings 94a is above slit 91 and opening 94b is below. Accordingly, the parts of elements 92 separated by the opening 94a and 94b are unable to control the orientation of a liquid crystal in reverse about the openings, as discussed above with regard to Figs. 6 and 7 of the present Specification.

As such, the cut out top electrode 92 disclosed by Lien, cannot be said to teach or suggest orientation controllers that have both "portions extending along the direction in which said one or more slits extend" and "control the orientation of a liquid crystal in reverse about the orientation controllers" as required by amended claim 14. Therefore, claim 14, as amended herein, is submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over Lien.

Claims 15 and 16 depend directly from and contain all the limitations of claim 14 so that such claims are also submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over Lien.

In conclusion, claims 14-16 are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the prior art for the reasons discussed above. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 785-4764 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

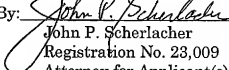
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If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

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By: 
John P. Scherlach
Registration No. 23,009
Attorney for Applicant(s)

1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1400
Los Angeles, California 90067
Phone: (310) 785-4600
Fax: (310) 785-4601